

## Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – Region 5

North of Falcon – March 15, 2022

### Tributary Salmon and Steelhead Proposals

**Tributary Rule Change Proposals:** Based upon anticipated Chinook and coho returns, expected sport harvest, and broodstock collection goals, WDFW staff propose changes to salmon rules in the following rivers. Current and recommended rules are described below:

#### Cowlitz River –

- Current – Salmon: Daily limit 6, up to 3 adults may be retained (hatchery coho only).
- Recommend- Daily limit 6, up to 3 adults may be retained of which 1 may be a Chinook (hatchery salmon only).

#### Lewis River –

- Current – Aug. 1-Sept. 30 Salmon: Daily limit 6, up to 3 adults may be retained of which 2 may be a Chinook (hatchery fish only).  
Oct. 1- Dec. 31 Salmon: Daily limit 6, up to 3 adults may be retained of which 2 may be any Chinook.
- Recommend- Aug. 1-Sept. 30 Salmon: Daily limit 6, up to 3 adults may be retained of which 3 may be Chinook (hatchery salmon only).

#### Washougal River –

- Current – Salmon: Daily limit 6, up to 3 adults may be retained of which 1 may be a Chinook (hatchery Chinook/coho only).
- Proposal: Salmon: Daily limit 6, up to 3 adults may be retained of which 2 may be Chinook (hatchery Chinook/coho only).
  - Increases the adult Chinook daily limit by 1 fish to align rules with preseason forecasts, expected sport harvest, and hatchery broodstock needs.

#### Camas Slough –

Proposal: Align angling rules with the mainstem Columbia River, while allowing for continued boat angling by Oregon anglers and two pole angling during the fall period.

- If adopted, permanent rules would appear in the 2022-2023 Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet as described below:

<b>Defined as those waters outside of the mouth of the Washougal River, north of Lady Island, and downstream of the Hwy. 14 Bridge at the upstream end of Lady Island (CRC TBD)</b>		
All Species	Year-round	It is permissible for an angler licensed in Oregon or Washington to fish from a floating device.
	Aug. 1 – Dec. 31	Anglers may fish with two poles with Two-Pole Endorsement.
	Year-round	Additional angling rules for Camas Slough are the same as the Special Rules or effective emergency rule in the adjacent mainstem Columbia.

- Provides clarity for anglers, fishery managers, enforcement officers, and agency staff.
- Establish unique CRC code for this area to better understand stock composition.

- Could be opened during periods of mainstem closure through emergency rule if management constraints allow.

#### **Wind River-**

- Current: July 1- Oct. 31: Salmon – daily limit 6, up to 2 adult salmon may be retained. Release wild Chinook and wild coho. Closed to fishing for or retaining steelhead.
- Pursuing resources for increased creel to better understand the stock composition of unmarked catch in the Wind River bubble fishery.
- Proposed rule (contingent upon securing resources to perform additional creel):

<b>From boundary line markers at mouth to Hwy. 14 Bridge (CRC 680)</b>		
Salmon and hatchery steelhead	July 1 - Sept. 30	Salmon- min size 12". Daily limit 6. Up to 2 adult salmon may be retained. Release wild Chinook and wild coho. Closed to fishing for or retaining steelhead.
Salmon and hatchery steelhead	Oct. 1 - Oct. 31	Salmon – min size 12". Daily limit 6. Up to 2 adult salmon may be retained. Release wild coho. Closed to fishing for or retaining steelhead.

#### **Tributaries With No Rule Changes Proposed for 2022**

Based upon anticipated Chinook and coho returns, expected sport harvest, and broodstock collection goals, no changes are proposed to salmon rules in the following rivers. Current rules provided below:

- **Elochoman River** - Salmon: Daily limit 6, up to 2 adults may be retained (hatchery Chinook/coho only).
- **Toutle/NF Toutle/Green Rivers** - Salmon: Daily limit 6, up to 3 adults may be retained of which 1 may be a Chinook (hatchery Chinook/coho only)
- **SF Toutle River** – Salmon: Daily limit 6, up to 2 adults may be retained (hatchery fish only).
- **Kalama River** - Salmon: Daily limit 6, up to 3 adults may be retained (hatchery Chinook/coho only).

#### **Lower Tributary Reach Steelhead Regulations**

Maintain steelhead fishing and retention rules in the lowest reaches of some rivers to provide conservation for steelhead stocks forecast to return to the Columbia Basin in low abundances.

1. Tributaries and reaches below Bonneville Dam:
  - a. Cowlitz – downstream of Lexington Drive/Sparks Road bridge
  - b. Kalama River – downstream of the railroad bridge below I-5
  - c. Lewis River – downstream of confluence with the East Fork

Conservation strategies:

  - i. Night closure for salmon and steelhead from July 1 through September 30
  - ii. Daily limit of 1 hatchery steelhead during July and September
  - iii. Steelhead fishing closure during August
2. Tributaries and reaches above Bonneville Dam
  - a. Wind River – waters downstream of Shipherd Falls, including area outside of the Highway 14 bridge
  - b. Drano Lake

- c. White Salmon River – downstream of the county road bridge
- d. Klickitat River – waters downstream of Fisher Hill Bridge

Conservation strategies:

- i. Night closure for salmon and steelhead from July 1 through October 31
- ii. Steelhead fishing closure from July 1 through October 31

- 3. Northwest corner of Drano Lake – See area between red lines in figure below.



- a. Angling closures implemented in 2021 to address repeated violations of steelhead angling closures.
- b. Regulations beyond those described in item 2 above are not proposed at this time.
- c. WDFW is actively soliciting public comment on fishery management in the 'area under consideration', located between the red lines in the figure above.